

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance in view of the forgoing amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable subject matter

Applicant notes that claims 4 and 5 have been allowed.

Applicant also notes that claims 7, 9, 10 and 11 contain allowable subject matter.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 6-11 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph due to a typographical error. In response, Applicant has corrected the error and, hence requests withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of independent claim 6.

The Examiner has not indicated other grounds for rejecting claims 7-11 under 35 USC § 112 and, hence, it is Applicant's belief that the rejection of dependent claims 7-11 was based on the rejection of independent claim 6. Thus, given that there are not other ground for rejecting claims 7-11 under 35 USC § 112, Applicant requests withdrawal of Examiner's rejection of claims 7-11 under 35 USC § 112.

Claim Rejections: 35 USC § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,900,738 to Khandros et al. ("Khandros") in view of either US Patent No. 6,496,023 to Kanamaru et al. ("Kanamaru") or US Patent No. 6,646,455 B2 to Maekawa et al. ("Maekawa") and further in view of US Patent No. 6,125,042 to Verdi et al ("Verdi"). Applicant disagrees. More specifically, according to the Examiner's conclusion and the teachings of

Khandros, the shell or conducting film 190 "extends all the way to the pad 103" or covers the entire surface of the elongated element or the elongated support 187, from the distal to the proximal region thereof, and is in contact with the electronic component 102. *See Office Action dated March 30, 2004 at page 2.* Thus, based on Examiner's conclusion as well as a careful reading of Khandros, it is clear that Khandros specifically teaches and relies upon, in each and every embodiment taught therein, that the conductive shell or coating extends beyond the distal end and onto the electronic component or pad. In contrast, Applicant's invention claims that the conducting film is disposed over "the support member up to the distal region" and does not extend beyond the distal region of the support member. Thus, Khandros specifically teaches away from a conducting film disposed over the support member up to the distal region. Consequently, Khandros can not be combined with the references cited by the Examiner to suggest, disclose, or teach Applicant's invention. Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of Examiner's rejection of independent claim 1 and full allowance of same.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from and further limit, in a patentable sense, independent claim 1 and, hence, are also in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant requests withdrawal of Examiner's rejection of claims 2 and 3 and full allowance of same.

The Examiner rejected claims 6 and 8 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Khandros in view of Kanamaru or Maekawa and further in view of Verdi. Applicant disagrees. More specifically, Khandros teaches and is focused on testing the property or performance of a single sample of test material, for example, a semiconductor. In contrast, Applicant's invention as set forth in independent claim 6 relates to "making a measurement related to a characteristic related to the first film and the second film contacting." Thus, Khandros specifically teaches away from Applicant's invention for measuring a property associated with or between two materials. Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of Examiner's rejection of independent claim 6 under 35 USC § 103(a) and full allowance of same.

Claims 8 depends from and further limits, in a patentable sense, independent claim 6 and, hence, is also in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant requests withdrawal of Examiner's rejection of claim 8 under 35 USC § 103(a) and full allowance of same.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, and in view of the foregoing, the claims are believed to be in form for allowance, and such action is hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, he or she is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted

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REPLY TO CUSTOMER NO. 27498

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